

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 04772 141910Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2782

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 4772

FOR ARA/ECA: RICHARD GRAHAM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, UY
SUBJECT: US-OWNED SAILING VESSEL "FENNIA"

REF: (A) STATE 300353, (B) STATE 294686, (C) MONTEVIDEO 3911

1. NICHANDROS' REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF REPAIRS TO FENNIA DISCUSSED WITH COMAP (FORMERLY MAPELL) SHIPYARD (REF B). COMAP REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT COMPANY WAS "FRANKLY TIRED" OF SENDING ESTIMATES (HE ALSO NOTED NICHANDROS HAS OUTSTANDING DEBTS WITH THEM) AND IS NOT INTERESTED IN SENDING MORE.

2. EMBASSY CONTINUING ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE GOU AUTHORITIES TO SUGGEST EXTENSION OF DEADLINE (AS REQUESTED REF A). HOWEVER, EMBASSY CANNOT BE OPTIMISTIC OVER PROSPECTS OF GOU GRANTING SUCH EXTENSION INASMUCH AS REASONS ADVANCED ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE NICHANDROS GAVE IN JULY 1975. IN ADDITION, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EMBASSY CAN ONLY ACT AS INTERMEDIARY ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARTIES. IN JULY 1975, NAVAL PREFECT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY INTEREST BUT STILL REQUIRED DIRECT COMMUNICATION FROM OWNER OF VESSEL OR HIS LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE. BECAUSE OF THIS, EMBASSY BELIEVES A DIRECT REQUEST FROM NICHANDROS TO NAVAL PREFECT BY CABLE (C/N JORGE BRUSSONE, PREFECTURA GENERAL NAVAL, RAMBLA ROOSEVELT Y MACIELVNNG HENSDEO) CITING DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE AND DESCRIBING FURTHER PLANS IS ADVISABLE (AND AS NICHANDROS PREVIOUSLY STATED HE WOULD DO- STATE 269043).

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE SECOND TIME MR. NICHANDROS IS ASKING GOU NOT TO APPLY PROVISIONS OF LAW NO. 14343. ORIGINAL REQUEST, AS THIS
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ONE, WAS BASED ON PROJECTED REPAIRS TO VESSEL AND SALE TO MARITIME

MUSEUM OF PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO. EXTENSION AS SUCH WAS NOT GRANTED.
RATHER, MR. NICHANDROS' LETTER TO NAVAL PREFECT (75 MONTEVIDEO
2429) PROVIDED ASSURANCES TO GOU THAT NECESSARY STEPS WOULD BE
TAKEN TO FLOAT AND REMOVE VESSEL AND TO APPOINT A LOCAL LEGAL
REPRESENTATIVE THUS PREVENTING TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP ON
AUGUST 9, 1975 DEADLINE. AS NICHANDROS AWARE, HOWEVER, PROVISIONS
OF LAW CONTINUED TO APPLY. ALMOST 18 MONTHS HAVE SINCE ELAPSED
AND IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT NO STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO REPAIR
VESSEL NOR HAS A LOCAL LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE BEEN APPOINTED.
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Message Attributes

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